

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application. In response to the Office Action mailed 8/27/03, Applicant is filing this response. Claims 1-62 are still pending.

In the subject Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6, 8, 9, 17-20, 22-25, 27-30, 33, 37-39, 42, 44, 45, 53-56 and 58-61 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chen (U.S. Patent 6,076,132). The Examiner states that Chen discloses the invention as recited in the rejected claims.

Applicant submits that the claimed embodiments of the invention as recited in the pending claims are not disclosed by Chen. Chen teaches an arbitration unit to control access to a shared device among a plurality of devices. The Examiner has referred to the text of Chen at col. 6, line 39 – col. 7, line 15 and at col. 12 lines 1-59 as disclosing the claimed embodiments of the present invention. However, the referenced text of Chen applies to an arbitration unit that grants access to the shared device by the plurality of devices, in which maximum latency requirement and minimum access requirement of the devices are satisfied.

The present invention pertains to agents which participate in a transaction themselves in which one agent responds to the other with a signal informing if the transaction may succeed or not succeed based on the ability of the first agent to respond. As claimed in the independent claims, the agent of the transaction is a potential participant in the transaction and not an arbitration unit to arbitrate access to a shared unit by a plurality of units (as disclosed in Chen).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection and allow pending claims 1-62.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-62 are in condition for allowance.

Since this response is being submitted within the first extension period, Applicant is submitting a petition to respond in the first month of the extension period. An extension fee payment and statement is included with this submission. However, if there are any further fees due, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2126.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 C.F.R 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below:

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